

REMARKS

Description of Amendments:

The claims have been amended to rewrite Claims 6, 9-12 and 19 in independent form. Additionally, Claim 24 has been amended to recite that the fiber from claim 19 has a predetermined angle of about 45°. Claim 25 has been added to recite two alternative embodiments of the relative movement of the fiber and a laser beam. Claim 22 has been cancelled. No new matter has been added.

Drawings:

The Examiner objected to the drawings because “(A) Figures 1 through 5 are not labeled and (B) the elements of Figures 6 and 8 are not readable and need to be relabeled (C) features of Figures 6 and 8 are not clearly shown.” In response, Applicants are submitting herewith revised drawings in which Figures 1 through 5 have been formalized (i.e., they are identical drawings to those of issued Patent No. 6,246,026), and Figures 6 through 8 have been revised to more clearly indicate the features and the reference numbers as required by the Examiner. Applicants submit that these revised drawings obviate the Examiner’s objections.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicants wish to acknowledge and thank the Examiner’s finding of allowable subject matter in Claims 9-12 and 18-21. According to the Examiner’s instructions, these claims have been rewritten in independent form and include all of the limitations of the base

claims and any intervening claims. Applicants submit that these claims are now in condition for allowance.

Applicants have also amended claim 6 to include the limitations of claim 1. This claim is a method of making the fiber recited in claim 19 (allowable) and should be allowable too based on the Examiner's reasoning.

Prior Art Rejections:

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-8, 13-17 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown (U.S. Patent No. 5,983,676). In response, Applicants submit that Brown is not analogous prior art as required under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).¹ Nevertheless, to obtain an early allowance, the claims have been amended to obviate the Examiner's rejection.

Information Disclosure Statement:

On June 20, 2003 Applicants submitted an IDS concurrently with the preliminary amendment. These documents were faxed to Facsimile No. (703) 746-5907. Our records indicate that this transmission was successful. Nevertheless, this transmission is not acknowledged in the Office Action. Specifically, there is no mention of the IDS and no indication of an initialed version of the 1449 form that was submitted therewith. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge this IDS and initial the 1449 form to verify that the references listed thereon have been considered or otherwise list the references on a PTO form 892. Since this IDS was submitted prior to the first Office Action being

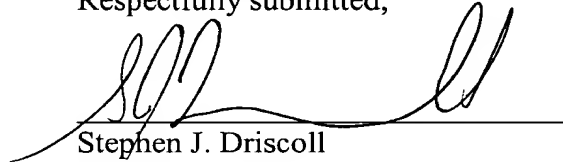
¹This point was successfully argued in the prosecution of the present application's parent application, now, US Patent No.

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mailed, there should be no fee associated with its filing. In the event that the Examiner disagrees with our assessment regarding the submission of the subject IDS, Applicants hereby petition that the IDS be accepted nevertheless after the first Office Action and hereby authorize the Examiner to charge Deposit Account No. 19-5425 in connection with fees associated with this IDS. A copy of the IDS as filed is enclosed herewith.

An early and favorable response is earnestly solicited. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SJD', is written over a horizontal line.

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